

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1754
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
INDIANS LIVING IN DUBAI
Nizamuddin Shri G.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of persons of Indian origin presently living in Dubai;
- (b) the State-wise details of such persons who have been sent back, particularly from Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) State-wise data on Indians living in Dubai is not available.
- (b) 17719 Emergency Certificates were issued by Consulate General of India, Dubai to illegal migrants from Andhra Pradesh during the Amnesty in UAE from 2nd June 2007- 2nd November 2007. Details in respect of Indians from other States are awaited. However, it is estimated that around one lakh illegal migrants returned to India during the Amnesty for Dubai & Northern Emirates.
- (c) The Consulate General of India (CGI), Dubai made elaborate arrangements to facilitate the return of illegal migrants to India, which included:
 - (i) 12 collection centres all over Dubai and northern Emirates were opened for collection of applications for Emergency Certificates from Indian amnesty seekers.
 - (ii) Dedicated helplines set up for disseminating information on Amnesty.
 - (iii) Management, teachers and staff of Indian High Schools in Dubai and Sharjah along with volunteers from various Indian Associations were mobilized to support the Amnesty operations.
 - (iv) A team of officers was deputed to Dubai which helped in quick decisions. Additional staff to expedite the work was also deputed.
 - (v) Printed Emergency Certificates were introduced which expedited the delivery process.
 - (vi) Efforts were made to convince the UAE authorities to make rules for regularization simple and easy so that the companies recruiting workers would benefit from the available work force.
 - (vii) Efforts were also made to remove the clause of life ban so that people would be encouraged to avail the amnesty scheme.
 - (viii) The Dubai Naturalization and Residency Department was assisted to set up an exclusive emigration centre for processing exit permits of Indian amnesty seekers.
 - (ix) All major airlines were invited to set up offices in the CGI collection centres. Special fares for amnesty seekers which were 25-30% less than normal fares were announced by Air India, Air India Express and Indian following intervention of the Government. Additional flights to Hyderabad, Mumbai and Calicut were operated by Air India Express.